

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT FOR EB/OT/TA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CA
SUBJ: PARALLEL STUDIES OF AUTO INDUSTRY

1. SUMMARY. A WORKING-LEVEL MEETING ON THE PARELLEL STUDIES WAS HELD ON DECEMBER 13 IN OTTAWA. DRAFTS OF THE STUDIES WERE EXCHANGED, SOME TECHNICAL QUESTIONS WERE CLARIFIED AND COMPARABILITY OF THE STUDIES WAS DISCUSSED. THE DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT AFTER REVIEW AND INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE WORKING GROUPS, A SENIOR-LEVEL MEETING ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDIES TO BE HELD EARLY NEXT YEAR WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. END SUMMARY.

2. EACH DELEGATION ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE OTHER'S DRAFT. THE TWO REMAINING WORKING PAPERS OF THE CANADIAN DRAFT (OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AND SECONDARY EFFECTS ON OTHER INDUSTRIES OF CHANGES IN MOTOR VEHICLE DESIGN) ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY-MARCH. IT WAS AGREED THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD REVIEW THE DRAFTS TO ASSURE AGREEMENT ON BASIC DATA AND QUESTIONS OF FACT. SEVERAL TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE STUDIES WERE CLARIFIED. IN PRELIMINARY FASHION PENDING EXCHANGE OF WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE TWO DRAFTS.

3. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT AFTER REVIEW OF THE STUDIES, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO BEGIN A MORE SENIOR-LEVEL, DISCUSSION OF THEIR IMPLICATIONS, POSSIBLY IN FEBRUARY.

4. SINCE THE SEPARATE STUDIES EMPHASIZE DIFFERENT
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ASPECTS OF THE ORIGINAL OUTLINE (CANADA, THE COMPETITIVE-

NESS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN INDUSTRY; U.S., THE
IMPACT OF GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS ON THE INDUSTRY),
THE STUDIES ARE MORE COMPLEMENTARY THAN COMPARABLE.
IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM
AS LONG AS THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES ON BASIC FACTUAL
DATA.

5. IT WAS REAFFIRMED THAT THE STUDIES SHOULD BE NEITHER
A CRITIQUE OF THE AUTO AGREEMENT NOR AN ASSESSMENT OF
ITS OPERATION.

5. ONE CONCLUSION OF THE CANADIAN STUDY IS THAT CANADA
HAS NOT ENJOYED AS MUCH CAPITAL INVESTMENT, AS MUCH
R&D ACTIVITY, NOR AS HIGH A LEVEL OF OPPORTUNITY FOR
SKILLED-LABOR EMPLOYMENT AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED GIVEN
THE SIZE OF THE CANADIAN MARKET.

7. CANADIANS NOTED THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE
A PROFILE OF THE PARTS SECTOR IN THE STUDIES AND ASKED
IF THIS INFORMATION WAS INCLUDED IN THE USG STUDY.
US DELEGATION POINTED OUT SECTIONS OF ITS STUDY WHICH
FULFILLED THIS UNDERSTANDING, EMPHASIZING THAT THIS
SECTION (AND ANY OTHER) IS AMENABLE TO FURTHER
DISCUSSION AND CHANGE.

8. IT WAS AGREED THAT, IF QUERIED BY INTERESTED
PARTIES, BOTH SIDES WOULD NOTE THAT THE STUDIES ARE
APPROACHING THEIR FINAL STAGE.
ENDERS

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